

It's the business

'The power to forget is a necessary condition of our existence' - Sholem Asch

A healthy bite

BRANSTON Pickle and Ambrosia custard maker **Premier Foods** yesterday swallowed meat-free producer **Cauldron Foods** as it leapt into a growing hunger for healthy meals. Premier paid £27 million for Cauldron, which supplies supermarkets with vegetarian sausages, tofu and other foods from its Bristol base. The £172m acquisition of the maker of Quorn in

June first took Premier into the healthy eating market. Its portfolio also includes Cadbury's Hot Chocolate and Sarsen's vinegar. Cauldron, which has 215 staff, has annual sales of £14.7m and pre-tax profits last year totalled £1.3m. Chief executive Robert Schofield said: "Cauldron will further enhance our position in the high-growth healthy eating market."

FAIR SHARES

SPECULATION that another UK blue chip company was close to being taken over drove leading share prices higher yesterday. The FTSE 100 index closed 27 points higher at 5344.3 as investors bet on the likes of insurer **Royal & SunAlliance** and oil and gas explorer **BG Group** being among the most likely bid targets.

BAA axe 700

AIRPORTS operator **BAA** is to shed 700 jobs or nearly one in five management and administration posts in a three-year cost-cutting drive. The owner of seven UK airports, including Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, said the cuts, from a worldwide workforce of 12,000, would save £45 million a year and lead to one-off costs of £90m. Chief executive Mike Clasper said the group had performed well but needed streamlining to reduce bureaucracy while maintaining frontline staffing. News of the cuts came as BAA announced increased traffic and a rise in underlying half-year profits from £348 million to £366m. Passenger numbers rose 2.5% to 82.3m in the six months to the end of September.

LSE bid given the OK

A £1.5 BILLION takeover of the **London Stock Exchange** by either of its two major rivals has been given the go-ahead. But the Competition Commission placed obstacles in their path. **Euronext** and **Deutsche Börse** must guarantee independence for the company that clears share trades in London, **LCH Clearnet**, before they can proceed. It means Euronext, the only company considering a bid, must cut its stake in LCH Clearnet from 41.5% to 14.9%. Deutsche Börse must undertake not to switch clearing to any clearing house it controls. It might bid if Euronext formalises its offer. LSE shares rose 3p to 569.5p on the news.

Matalan suffers

Sales plunge is 'scary'

MATALAN said yesterday sales had fallen off a cliff since the end of August. The budget clothing chain also warned it saw no sign of improvement in time for Christmas. Chief executive John King blamed the unseasonably warm weather for a first half 6.3% like-for-like sales fall - accelerating to 10.6% in the past two months. He said: "The whole market is down. Where T-shirts and shorts were not selling in the cold early

spring, it's the same now with knitwear and coats." Analysts called the fall "pretty scary" and warned Matalan was losing customers to **Primark** and supermarket giants like **Tesco** and **Asda**. They have been rapidly expanding their space for clothes. **Worse** Matalan's homework sales were doing even worse than its clothing, like the range modelled left. Christmas gifts, cards and soft furnishings were selling particularly poorly, King said. He added: "People are only buying things when they need them." But he insisted his stores close

to rivals had performed in line with the rest of the chain. And he added: "Primark are piling up space as we did in the 1990s. "But we found that as we got bigger we had to offer customers more choice." Matalan shares, which reached 750p in the chain's glory days of rapid expansion in 2000, have fallen 30% this year. Yesterday they rose 0.5p to 165.5p, even though analysts warned that a long-rumoured takeover bid was very unlikely. First half profits were down 28% to £31 million as expected. City experts warned that forecast £78m full-year profits could fall as low as £50m.

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HOT GOSSIP

GRESHAM Computing climbed 2.5p to 76p amid speculation it was close to agreeing deals for more major banks to use its Nostro clearing and settlement system for providing currency information. **HSBC** became the first financial giant to sign up nearly two months ago.

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 27.00 points (0.51%) at 5344.30

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low									
3i Grp.	760.	+2.	788	626	1470	Centrica	239.	+1.	264	217	1818	Land Secs.	1413	+4	1400	1197	1035	Yrly Dutch Schl A	1740	-11	1875	1644	6699
A.B. Food	788.	-3.	863	699	1082	Compass Group	190.	+1.	219	165	7663	Legal&Gen.	109	+1.	119	100	1036	Yrly Dutch Schl B	1838	-5	1969	1727	6619
Alliance & Linc.	837.	+3.	947	814	2233	Daily Mail	635	+9	764	617	3973	Lib-tel	943	+12.	1025	861	7649	SAB	1063	-3	1100	774	4771
AMVESCO	357.	+1.	432	299	1124	Diageo	833.	-2	841	721	1029	Lloyds Tsb Grp.	463	+1.	509	415	6395	SAB	1063	-3	1100	774	4771
Anglo	1679.	+9	1704	1130	4949	DSC Int.	143.	-1	174	136	1020	Man Group	1554	+14	1711	1162	7896	Santander(U)	277	+2	302	251	1054
Antofagasta	1474.	+26	1580	1010	3438	Ent Inns	789.	+9.	872	610	4713	Marks & Sp.	413	-4.	417	319	1039	Schroders	862	+3	947	649	2817
Astrazenca	2534.	+1	2767	1861	5385	Exel	1207.	+1	1235	711	1366	National Grid	516	-6.	627	461	4443	Schroders Wv	808	-2	875	581	2912
Aviva	6722d	+5	685	550	3388	Friends Prov.	1774d	+1.	189	136	7233	Next	1340	+6	1700	1268	1254	Schl & Enrgy	972	-8	1040	790	3960
BAA	696.	-7	636	571	1389	Gallagher Grp.	871.	-6	888	690	2222	Nthn Rock	798	+4	835	705	3555	Sev. Power	557	+4	588	507	5209
BAC Sys	336.	+5.	344	224	1010	GLS	838.	-4.	989	821	1237	O2	209	+3.	209	104	2100	Shire Pharmcd	471	+1	708	507	3062
Barclays	563.	+3	614	519	1004	Hammerston	918.	+26	933	738	2260	Old Mutual	1314d	+.	144	115	2782	Smith & Nephew	471	+1	558	451	1439
BIG Grp.	517.	+21	540	344	1274	Hanson	580.	+7.	609	409	1030	PartyGaming	83	+6.	176	71	8400	Smiths Grp	471	+1	558	451	1439
BUP Bill	843.	+13	916	569	2423	HBOS	844.	+9	912	726	3333	Pearson	536	+8	694	601	1374	Stand.Chrt	1271	+25	1247	924	4848
BUC Grp.	1110.	-3	1173	878	1008	Hilton Grp.	341.	+2.	345	257	1942	Prudential	150	-17.	542	408	7481	Tate & Lyle	627	+3	749	613	4668
Boots Group	610.	-5.	692	563	1009	HSBC Hldgs.	892.	+4	953	825	5562	Reckitt Benckiser	1700	-7	1834	1493	1046	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
BP	523.	+5	663	500	1011	Imp Chem.	288.	+1.	307	213	1032	Reed Elsevier	525	+9	553	461	1396	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Bp	734.	+3.	741	422	1094	Imp Tobacco Grp.	1615.	-5	1629	1271	1271	Rentokil Int.	150	-2.	173	139	7779	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Br Airways	305.	+3	316	215	6258	Intercon. Hotel	720.	+14	775	612	3729	Reuters Grp.	363	+3.	428	351	1047	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Br Amer Tob.	1231.	-12	1243	826	1003	Int'l Power	229.	-3	252	150	9025	REXAM	480	-1	519	435	1115	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Br Land	916.	+26	958	756	1129	ITV	106.	+2.	130	101	2145	Rio Tinto	2176	+22	2346	1430	6869	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
BSkyB	5222d	+12	595	505	1382	Johnson, Matth.	1171.	+1	1187	915	1280	Rolls-Royce	367	+2.	382	236	6441	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
BT Group	210.	-2.	235	185	1012	Kelda Grp.	690.	-5.	725	526	4018	Royal Bank Scot.	1575	+11	1833	1522	3219	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Cable & Wire	116.	+1	164	104	1015	Kingfisher	212.	+1	316	201	5908	Royal Sun All.	100	+4.	100	73	7482	Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Cadbury-Sch.	561.	+5.	598	446	1016													Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Cain Energy	1725.	-2	2018	1042	3643													Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Capita Group	385.	-4.	394	345	2623													Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585
Carnival	2919.	+50	3241	2637	2568													Unilever	558	+3	658	525	3585

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CIGS BAN COSTS JDW

PUBS group **JD Wetherspoon** has hit out at the Government's planned smoking ban after unveiling a fall in sales in its non-smoking pubs. Finance director Jim Clarke yesterday said proposals to ban smoking only in pubs serving food was "without logic". He said the plan was confusing and would discriminate against staff in non-food pubs. Clarke said like-for-like sales had fallen 7.3% in the 47 non-smoking pubs

in JDW's 650-strong estate. But he said the group was learning valuable lessons and would make all its pubs non-smoking before the 2007 ban. The company also unveiled plans to open pubs at 9am to sell breakfasts and drinks to people coming off night shifts. Its shares rose 4.5p to 300p. **Lambert & Butler** maker **Imperial Tobacco** said overseas sales drove pre-tax profits up 11% to £1.12 billion for the year to September.

DAILY STAR Mobiles

Our consumer guide to the latest mobile phones in the market place

MOBILE gambling is the latest craze to sweep the mobile phone market, with experts forecasting a huge boom in the industry.

In five years there will be more than 200 million consumers gambling through their mobile phones, according to a new report into mobile gambling from market research firm Informa Telecoms & Media.

But in order to reach this figure, the operators and the companies who run the mobile gambling services will have to overcome many legal, technological and cultural hurdles.

"Mobile gambling is already generating significant revenues, but there is room for sharp growth in the years ahead," said Stuart Dredge, who wrote the report.

"Operators recognise that there is a strong demand for mobile gambling

services, and there is no shortage of companies looking to provide them. However, the industry must keep in mind its responsibilities to tackle underage and problem gambling."

Wild Jack Mobile Casino, which promotes responsible gambling, recently announced the launch of one of the first fully mobile wireless casinos in the UK.

Featuring six classic casino games, including roulette, blackjack, and video poker, Wild Jack Mobile Casino is one of the first mobile casinos to operate a mobile gambling system that enables players to register, play and play directly from their mobile phone.

The service is available to adults over the age of 18 in the UK who pass a strict verification age process.

Vodafone UK and British Sky Broadcasting (Sky) have just

announced plans to launch a mobile TV service in the UK.

The deal marks another major step forward in the delivery of entertainment to mobile phones, with users able to enjoy television programmes on the move and, for the first time, having round-the-clock access to live breaking news and sports reports from Sky News and Sky Sports News.

There will be two Sky Mobile TV packages offering a combined total of 19 mobile channels including Sky News, Sky Sports News, MTV, Sky One, History Channel and Biography Channel.

Some channels will be broadcast 'as live' and others will be dedicated 'made for mobile' channels, featuring regularly updated blocks of programming.

All Vodafone UK customers with 3G handsets will be able to watch Sky Mobile TV on their phones in areas of 3G coverage.

Mobile Express are currently offering the LG8380 free on 3 with 500 any time any network minutes and 100 texts per month. The monthly line rental of £30 per month has been reduced to £3.99 line rental per month for 10 months, on an 18-month contract, making a saving of £260.10.



LG8380

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1. Samsung D600
2. Motorola ROKR E1
3. LG 8380

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Handset	Line Rental	Contract	Save
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FREE SAMSUNG D600	£33 per mth thereafter	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £214.50
FREE NOKIA 6230i	£16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £297
FREE SAMSUNG D500	£16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £297

Handset	Line Rental	Contract	Save
FREE SAMSUNG D600	£30 per mth thereafter	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £150.06
FREE MOTOROLA V3	£30 per mth thereafter	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £260.10
FREE LG 8380	£30 per mth thereafter	500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £260.10
FREE NOKIA 6630	£30 per mth thereafter	500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS 18 mth contract	SAVE £280.10

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NOTTINGHAM will hold a precautionary inspection at 7am to determine whether today's meeting will go ahead.

Although officials are hopeful of holding the fixture, the going is currently soft, heavy in places and clerk of the course Nick Patton has his fingers crossed some of the forecast overnight rain bypasses the Colwick Park venue.

"We are holding a precautionary inspection purely because we would be fairly concerned if the forecast 10 to 12 millimetres of rain fell."

JOHN DUNLOP's Ebi-kar heads the market for Saturday's totepot November Handicap at Doncaster with the sponsors, who make the recent Newmarket winner a 6-1 chance to take the Flat turf season's last major event.

simon delamere

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PUNTER POINTERS

WHO'S HOT NOT

TERRIFIC TRAINERS: (Most wins last 14 days) N Twiston-Davies 11; P Nicholls 11; Jono O'Neill 9; Sir M Stoute 7; P Hobbs 7; A King 6; M Pipe 6; G L Moore 6; Mrs H Dalton 5.

SUFFERING STABLES: (Runners since last win) M Giggel 182; A Brown 105; P Hatt 92; A J Wilson 92; P Jordan 89; P R Johnson 79; J O Shea 65; J Fadden 58; C Chung 57; A Carroll 54; R J Price 45; Dr P Pritchard 41; Miss J Gilman 40; J Warrin 38.

HOT JOCKS: (Most wins last 14 days) R L Moore 13; Saleem Golam 2; T J Murphy 7; Christian Williams 6; G Lee 6; M Foley 5; F Norton 5; Martin Dwyer 5; E Moore 5; R Walsh 5; S W Kelly 5; K Darley 4; L Dettori 4; R Thornton 4; Dane O'Neill 4; T E Durcan 4.

RISE OUT OF LUCK: (Rides since last win) Stephanie Hollinhead 143; S Curran 60; D Lavery 55; J McNamara 55; T Quinn 52; L Stephens 51; P Humphrey 49; James Davies 40; O Neill 38; Laura Reynolds 38; W McCarthy 34; M McElroy 34; Paul Eddery 33; S Drowne 32.

NEW QUARTERS

HORSES having their first runs for new trainers

CHIEFTOW: 1.00 Neptune Collonges (J O'Connell) (F) to P Nicholls; 2.10 Future Legend (P Bay) (F) to J G O'Shea; 3.55 Young Guns (T Horgan) (F) to J G O'Shea; 4.25 Jaybeak (M Pipe) to T George.

HUNTINGDON: 1.10 The Footballer (Miss G Browne to P Johnson); 1.45 Ardashir (N Twiston-Davies to S J Humphrey); Pedina (G Lyons) (F) to C Mann; 2.20 Umbrella Man (Miss H Knight to Miss E Lavelle); 3.30 Meadow Hawk (J Williams to A Carroll); Sunday City (R Fahey to P Bowen); 4.05 Burren Macdonald (D Hackett) (F) to P Bowen.

NOTTINGHAM: 2.00 Paris Power (Mrs B Sly to D Morris); 2.35 Coffin Dodger (C Dwyer to C Allen); 4.45 Muntani (M J Atwater to J A Harris).

DROP IN CLASS

CHEPSTOW: 1.35 Prince On The Ter down 3.

BE TRENDY

Trainer P Nicholls won the 4.25 at Chepstow in 2004 and 2004.

FAB FOR FAVS

2 favourites have won the 4.25 at Chepstow in the last 10 years. 2 favourites have won the 3.10 at Nottingham in the last 10 years. BUT only 1 favourite in the last 1.45 and 2.55 at Huntingdon in the last 10 years.

BIGGEST EARNERS

CHEPSTOW: Neptune Collonges £1,001,584; HUNTINGDON: Valley Henry 4,055,151; 621; NOTTINGHAM: African Sahara 4,455,101,011.

LONGEST TRAVELLERS

Horse (time & course) Distance Irish Wolf (1.10 Hun) 254 miles; It's Definite (1.45 Hun) 254 miles; Sunday City (3.30 Hun) 254 miles.

HANDICAP BLOT

MOUSESKI (3.20, Chepstow) kept to rides looks well weighted compared to achievements over fences.

MUST NEXT TIME

RACING DEMON's victory can give some comfort to the Knight yard after the loss of Best Mate and has a big future.

ONE TO SWERVE

NAMU (12.55, Nottingham) could play second fiddle again to an improving type.

BEST EACH WAY

PARNASSIAN (3.45, Nottingham) is from a stable in form and can run into a place.

MAGIC COMBINATIONS

R Walsh rides Neptune Collonges (1.00), Mouseksi (3.20), I'm Lovin It (3.55) & East Lawyer (4.25) for P P Nicholls, previous combination 20 wins from 63 mounts 32% strike rate at Chepstow.

T J Murphy rides Argent Oo (2.10) & Sardagna (4.25) for M C Pipe, previous combination 5 wins from 22 mounts 23% strike rate at Chepstow.

J Tizzard rides Mike Quasimodo (1.00), Classic Clover (2.10), Billy Ballbreaker (2.45), Pass Me A Dime (3.20) & Leading Authority (3.55) for P Nicholls, previous combination 4 wins from 24 mounts 17% strike rate at Chepstow.

J Crowley rides Ungaro (2.55) for K G Reavey, 3 from 4 wins at Huntingdon. 9 Fenton rides Umbrella Man (2.20), Pocket Sevens (2.55) & Tomina (4.05) for Miss E C Lavelle, 6 from 21 runs at Huntingdon.

J M Maguire rides Stack The Pack (1.45) for T J Murphy, 2 from 3 runs at 29% at Huntingdon. N Fahy rides Pedina (1.45) for C J Mann, 6 from 29 runs at 21% at Huntingdon. R Thornton rides The Extra Man (2.20), Knight Lad (2.55) & Archduke Ferdinand (3.30) for A King, 8 from 45, 18% at Huntingdon.

L Appleby rides Heir To Be (4.05) for Mrs L Wecham, 3 from 25, 12% at Huntingdon.

NOTTINGHAM ON 09055 141 601 (611)

12.25 MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 1)

1 (6) 00 JOKING JOHN (2) F Cahoon 9.0 D McKewen 12.25
2 (4) 00 KAMARI GOLD (14) Munnau 9.0 Darnen Williams 32
3 (20) 00 MOKAI (14) Johnson 9.0 K Darley 66
4 (5) 00 PHONE IN (6) J Prescott 9.0 S Sanders 16
5 (1) 00 ROYAL EMBLEM (68) D Shaw 9.0 P Mathers (5) 17
6 (8) 00 SUPER FRANK (6) G Butler 9.0 N Norton 26
7 (10) 00 BALLET SLIPPERS (20) John Joseph Murphy (RE) 9.0 Paddy 61
8 (7) 00 DOLLY BROWN (19) T Easterly 8.9 J Mullins 34
9 (2) 00 PEARLY POLL (36) M Becker 8.9 M Souza (3) —
10 (9) 00 THE CITY KID (40) V P Evans 8.9 R Moore +75

Star Betting: — EVENS Pearl Poll, 7-2 Makai, 8 Dolly Brown, 10 The City Kid, 12 Phone In, Super Frank, 15 Ballet Slippers, 33 others.
BEST DRAWN: Royal Emblem (drawn 1) 100%.

2004: Starchy, 4; J Fanning, 12; J M Johnston, drawn (5), 14 ran.

STARFORM: PEARLY POLL D: Makai

12.55 MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2)

1 (6) 00 CATIVO CAVALLINO (14) J Poole 9.0 D McCabe 60
2 (1) 00 GRAND JURY (19) T McKeefe 9.0 J Doyle (7) 52
3 (4) 00 MY BELEGG (12) S Shaw 9.0 S Sanders 16
4 (5) 00 PADDY MOON (14) J Gown 9.0 M Fenton 16
5 (10) 00 POLISH EFFIGY (23) E W Duke 9.0 G Baker —
6 (2) 00 CANINA (14) M Deborah J Evans 9.0 J Mullins 34
7 (9) 00 HAIFA (14) M A Duffield 9.0 J Guillemard 48
8 (3) 00 NAMU (19) B Hiles 9.0 A Culhane 24
9 (2) 00 ROSITA (14) M G M Turner 9.0 M Hallford (5) 33
10 (3) 00 UANDI (14) J Harris 9.0 M Hallford (5) 33

Star Betting: — 9-4 Namu, 9-2 Haifa, 5 Cativo Cavallino, 13-2 Rosita Mia, 7 Canina, 8 Grand Jury, 14 Uandi, 16 others.
BEST DRAWN: Grand Jury (drawn 1) 100%.

2004: See Division 1.

STARFORM: NAMU Danger: Canina

1.25 NURSERY HANDICAP

1 (2) 00 THE LONDON GANG (26) A P Evans 9.0 J Quinn 43
2 (17) 00 453 ISLAND PRINCE (30) D J McKeefe 9.0 P Fessay 45
3 (15) 00 DON'T TELL SUE (32) D J McKeefe 9.0 P Fessay 45
4 (7) 00 LIPZZA (18) N Callaghan 9.0 L Dettori 45
5 (4) 00 AMBER GLOVE (17) D A S (B) K Ryan 3.9 58
6 (10) 00 JOHN CLAUDE (35) D J McKeefe 9.0 P Fessay 45
7 (8) 00 SHUNKAWAKHAN (15) B J Chappell 9.0 P Fessay 45
8 (14) 00 YOUNG BERTIE (32) M Norton 1.1 S Drowne 31
9 (13) 00 MAKE MY DREAM (15) J Callaghan 9.0 J Fagan 38
10 (18) 00 MAGGIE MINX (8) D S Wallace 8.9 C Callin 37
11 (9) 00 FORCES SWEETHEART (14) D J McKeefe 9.0 P Fessay 45
12 (1) 00 GAUTTO (10) M Deborah J Evans 9.0 J Mullins 34
13 (14) 00 PAUVIC (29) D J McKeefe 9.0 P Fessay 45
14 (5) 00 JAZZ AT THE SANDS (14) S Shaw 9.0 S Sanders 16
15 (5) 00 JAZZ AT THE SANDS (14) S Shaw 9.0 S Sanders 16
16 (16) 00 MISTER INCREDIBLE (27) C Dwyer 9.0 F Norton 32
17 (12) 00 GUELINE (64) M W Easterly 8.9 M Rothery (7) 43
18 (8) 00 YES LES (45) G Ferro 6.10 12

Star Betting: — 5 Don't Tell Sue, 6 Diane's Choice, 7 Island Prince, 10 Amber Glove, Maggie Minx, 12 John Claude, 13-2 Young Bertie, 14-10 Callaghan, 100 A Pound Down.
2004: Penang Sapphire, 1; C Callin, 40; A G Butler, drawn (2), 16 ran.

S: ISLAND PRINCE D: Make My Dream

TONY LEWIS

12.25 PEARLY POLL (nb) 12.25 HAIFA (nb) 12.55 CATIVO CAVALLINO 1.25 AMBER GLORY 1.25 LIPZZA 2.00 SCOT LOVE 2.00 REUNITE 2.35 SANDERS 3.10 CHRYSANDER 3.45 LITTLE BOB (nep) 3.45 PARNASSIAN 4.15 PRIDE OF KINLOCH 4.15 MADEMOISELLE

STARFORM: 12.25 Pearly Poll (treble); 1.25 Island Prince (nb); 2.35 Economic (nep)

BLACKBURN: 4.05 (Huntingdon) Dilett 1st win

ROTHWELL: 12.25 The City Kid, 12.55 Namu, 1.25 Lipzza, 2.00 Battalion, 2.35 Huggle, 3.10 Subpoena, 3.45 African Sahara, 4.15 Caperly Gal.

GOING: Soft-Heavy in places

INSPECTION 7.30 PLACEPOT: First six races.

TRACKFACTS

Perfectly flat and oval track of one mile four furlongs with a home straight of about four and a half furlongs. High numbers best in sprints when the stalls are placed on the far side. Stalls today Straight Stands Side, Round Inside.

2.00 MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 1)

1 (1) 00 BATTALION (5) M Stoute 9.0 R Moore —
2 (9) 00 BELINI STAR (61) P Evans 9.0 S Sanders 16
3 (8) 00 BIN RAHY (12) M Channon 9.0 T E Durcan 30
4 (10) 00 KING'S RANSOM (4) A Bading 9.0 M Dwyer 48
5 (8) 00 PURBARAN (22) S Keady 9.0 M Fenton 35
6 (12) 00 RUOGLIE (14) J Gown 9.0 M Fenton 35
7 (13) 00 REBELLION (14) J Gown 9.0 M Fenton 35
8 (14) 00 SCOT LOVE (14) J Gown 9.0 M Fenton 35
9 (3) 00 SUNNY DISPOSITION (9) E Vaughan 9.0 S Sanders 16
10 (11) 00 TILLEN (12) J Gown 9.0 D McKewen 12.25
11 (15) 00 WOOLLY BULL (14) G Haffer 9.0 F Norton 47
12 (5) 00 ZURBARAN (22) S Keady 9.0 M Fenton 35
13 (14) 00 LOCK AWE (14) J Gown 9.0 S Sanders 16
14 (2) 00 REUNITE (5) J Gown 9.0 L Dettori —
15 (3) 00 WASAUL (R Haffer) 9.0 S Sanders 16

Star Betting: — 7-2 Battalion, Reunite, 6 Rebellion, 13-2 Parnassian, 8 Bin Rahey, 9-10 others.
BEST DRAWN: Rebellion (drawn 12) 100%.

2004: Tapest, 9-0 R Hiles, 11-2 J Duntlop, drawn (14), 15 ran.

STARFORM: REBELLION D: Scot Love

2.35 MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2)

1 (13) 00 CARLTON SCROOP (13) J Jay 9.0 M Tabbutt 35
2 (2) 00

Best Mate dies of heart attack

THE KING is dead - long live the King!

Those famous words never conveyed more meaning than at Exeter yesterday when Best Mate ran his final race - and a possible new flag bearer stormed on to the scene.

The triple Gold Cup winner, who even carried off the 'best turned out' prize, collapsed and died before the last fence of the William Hill Haldon Gold Cup - but his name will remain embossed in the Racing Hall Of Fame.

Flocked

More than 6,000 National Hunt enthusiasts had flocked to the course to see the return of a legend - hoping against hope that a broken blood vessel earlier in the year hadn't halted his brilliant career.

The ten-year-old gelding - described by his

by TONY LEWIS

adoring trainer Henrietta Knight as "the most beautiful horse ever created" - looked in terrific condition and jumped with real zest behind pacemaker Ashley Brook over the first fences before losing his pitch five from home.

His new jockey Paul Carberry nursed him over the next couple of fences before pulling him up before the third last.

It was as he approached the final fence that he gurgled, staggered and fell down - probably the result of a heart attack. And the first person to be at his side was Henrietta Knight herself.

Ironically, the warm sunshine that had greeted the crowds, suddenly disappeared behind a big, chilly cloud.

The race itself went to Monkerhostin and, thankfully, the winner's connections were allowed to celebrate before the track's assistant manager Vicki Robinson confirmed the sad news and announced it to the crowd.

Yet as numbing as that was, all those people who came to see Best Mate were able to express their feelings to Knight and her husband Terry Biddlecombe half an hour later.

Racing Demon, a five-year-old novice chaser for whom the pair hold very high hopes, won his first chase over the same track and trip that had seen Best Mate win his first effort over fences in October 2000. The reception, as they led Racing Demon back into the winners'

enclosure, was amazing. First came the generous clapping all the way up to the hallowed spot. Then a truly massive cheer.

"There's nothing you can say, it's one of those things," said Hen, putting on her bravest face. "It looks like a heart attack. I have ridden a horse that died of a heart attack. Their legs go and they wobble and go down. That's it."

"I was the first person there and I knew immediately he was dead. You don't really think about it at the time. He died doing what he loved doing - racing. He was such a great horse, at least he didn't do anything terrible and fall or break a leg."

"I didn't have any problems with him at all this autumn. The whole country will miss him and, at least, he's never been beaten in the Gold Cup."

Harm

"It was a bit like Persian Punch at Ascot. Even this morning he was getting good luck cards in the post. He never did anyone any harm and was a joy to work with."

"When I went to greet Racing Demon, all the people round the fence were clapping. It was so moving. We have so many supporters here."

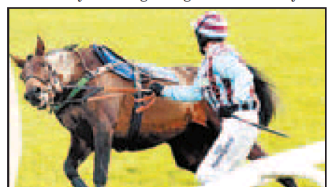
Biddlecombe, who forecast that his wife would undoubtedly shed a few tears later on, said: "He would have felt no pain. It's the sad side of racing, but one has to go forward and find another to replace him and you might just have soon him."

"We have seen it happen before and it will happen again. We will get over it."

Diary of a true champion



HAPPIER TIMES: Best Mate (top left) wins 2002 Gold Cup and again 2003 (top right) while owner Jim Lewis, trainer and jockey Jim Cullopy celebrate the hat-trick in 2004



SAD TIMES: Best Mate collapses

HUNTINGDON ON 09055 141 602 (612)

TOP JOCKEYS

(with mounts) R Thornton 22 winners, 11.19%, +£27.26, N Felly 11, 15%, +£97.25, B Fenton 9, 15%, +£7.90, J P McNamara 8, 9%, +£26.00, L Aspell 8, 7%, +£69.51.

1.10 RACING UK HANDICAP HURDLE

Class E conditionals (8 flights) 2m1f (14 runners) £3,314

1	153422	RESPLENDENT STAR (65)(CD,F,V)	M S Latham 8 11 12	M Roel (10)	77
2	13P	IRISH WOLF (25)(D,F)	P Bowen 5 11 12	T Greenway	41
3	542229	ARTANE BOYS (13)(D,G)	Jonjo O'Neill 8 11 11	W Jones (10)	84
4	P2153	IBERUS (31)(D,S)	S Gollings 7 11 9	W Kennedy	82
5	200-PP3	HONEST ENDEAVOUR (13)(D2,F,G)(P)	J Jefferson 6 11 9	P Morrison	59
6	0450P	MOON EMPEROR (F21)(D,S)	J Jenkins 8 11 9	R Lucy-Butler (8)	59
7	1232412	FESTIVE CHIMES (41)(BF,F,G)	N King 4 11 7	O Nemes	83
8	314-38	TIGANSE (16)(D,G)	G Moore 4 11 1	E Delahastel (8)	87
9	54-001	IDLE JOURNEY (16)(D,P)	M Scudamore 4 11 17/8	J Kingston (8)	82
10	6P-405	MANOLO (13)	Williams 5 10 13	P O'Neill	80
11	00-055	PARK CITY (21)(D,S)	J Joseph 6 10 8	L Heard (5)	57
12	220364	DI'S DILEMMA (21)	Bobby 7 10 6	T Messenger (5)	81
13	P-0015	UNCLE JOHN (16)(G,V)	Williams 4 10 1	D Boland (6)	57
14	0650	THE FOOTBALL RESULT (141)(B)	P Johnson 4 10 0	W P Kavanagh (5)	57

LONG HANDICAP: The Football Result 9-4. Star Betting: 11-2 Festive Chimes, 6 Tignase, 13-2 Artane Boys, 7 Iberus, Di's Dilemma, 8 Resplendent Star, 10 Honest Endeavour, 12 others.

2004: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: ARTANE BOYS Danger: Di's Dilemma

1.45 DEREK SLIP NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

Class D (19 fences) 3m (10 runners) £5,478

1	12P255	FULLARDS (229)(BF,C,D,G,S)	M S P 7 11 12	W Marston	89
2	653434	THE HOLY BEE (31)	M Knight 6 11 5	M Batchelor	88
3	F1U6-11	STACK THE PACK (D,F,G,S)	George 8 11 5	J M Maguire	88
4	54004	ARDASHIR (179)(D,S)	M S J Humphrey 6 11 5	B J Crowley	88
5	5P-306	PEDINA (146)(S)	C Mann 7 11 4	N Felly	81
6	SP1454	IT'S DEFINITE (15)(D2,F,G)(P)	P Bowen 6 11 3	A Felly	81
7	222P-04	DANTE'S BACK (15)	N Twiston-Davies 7 11 3	Anthony Evans	74
8	40P-5	KING OF GOTHALD (258)	K Bailey 6 10 8	J P McNamara	90
9	600452	ROMAN COURT (190)(S)	R Allen 7 10 8	S Curran	90
10	040-0	MEMORIES OF GOLD (17)	J Dunbar 5 10 10	P Brennan	90

LONG HANDICAP: Memories of Gold 9-12. Star Betting: 5-2 Stack The Pack, 5 Fullards, The Holy Bee, 11-2 It's Definite, 8 Roman Court, 12 Dante's Back, 14 others.

2004: Just Jolly, 9-10-5, (G Horner)(10), 6-1 J Cornwall, 5 ran.

STARFORM: STACK THE PACK Danger: Pedina

ABC GUIDE TO ALL THREE MEETINGS

ABC CUBE														
C-Chester-Huntingdon Nottingham	C	135	Cannia	N	1255	Follingsworth	N	235	Jo	C	355	Mac's Elan	H	330
Adale	C	135	Captain Smoothy	H	330	Forces Sweetheart	N	125	Just A Splash	C	210	Mademoiselle	N	415
African Sahara	N	405	Carlton Croop	N	235	Full Flight	H	230	Just Beth	C	300	Maggie Mink	N	125
Always Waiting	C	320	Catino Cavallino	N	1255	Futures	N	445	Kamari Gold	N	1225	Majority Vote	N	235
Amor Glory	N	125	Chrysler	N	310	Future Legend	C	210	Kellonard	H	220	Manolo	H	110
Amorist	N	415	Claudio Clover	C	210	Gaming Spirit	N	345	King Nicholas	H	415	Marlbrough Sound	H	420
Archibuteo	C	245	Coffin Dodger	N	235	Grand Jury	N	1255	King of Gothland	H	145	Master Tern	H	220
Archie	N	415	Dangerous Dream	C	320	Grand Jury	N	1255	Knocker Jack	H	255	Memories of Gold	H	145
Arrowhead Ferdinand	N	330	Dangerousdreamargu	C	425	Grand Slam Hero	C	355	Look To The Future	C	135	Montana	N	345
Asquid	C	110	Dante's Back	H	145	Green Prospect	C	355	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Argent On Or	C	110	Dante's Back	H	145	Guideline	N	125	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Arnie Boys	H	110	Dante's Back	H	145	Halla	N	1255	Knighon Lad	H	255	Phar From Frosty	H	405
Asquid	C	110	Didn't Tell My Mother	N	125	Her To Be	H	405	Look To The Future	C	135	Phar From Frosty	H	405
At Loggerheads	C	325	Dilett	H	405	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Ballet Slippers	N	405	Dol's Dilemma	N	1225	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Bally Ballbreaker	N	200	Don Tell Son	N	405	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Bellamy	N	255	Dream Merchant	H	110	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Bilbo's Nap	C	200	Dream Merchant	H	110	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
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Bilbo's Nap	C	200	Dream Merchant	H	110	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Bilbo's Nap	C	200	Dream Merchant	H	110	Honest Endeavour	H	405	Macmar	C	425	Night Out	N	415
Bilbo's Nap	C	200	Dream											

CHAT OR DATE
from only
1p
per min
WOMEN: 0845 222 0845
MEN: 0870 345 0161
GAY: 0870 345 0592
GAY GIRL: 0870 345 4300
0845 - Local rate, 1p to 5p w/end
0870 - 11p w/end & 3.5p eve

CHAT & DATE
from only
1p
per min
Swap photos with
thousands of genuine
members online & meet
real live people
0870 345 0161
0845 - Local rate, 1p to 5p w/end
0870 - 11p w/end & 3.5p eve

LIVE SEX CHAT
from only
10p
per min
0871 872 9779
0909 878 1818

30 SEC RELIEF
NO NEED TO TALK
0909 771 2031

GAY CHAT
from only
1p
per min
0870 345 9000
WOMEN: 0870 345 6156
0870 = 1.5p w/end, 3.5p eve

Cheap Chat
from only
45p
per min
09081 420 220
Explicit XXXtras
Sub Dom: 09094 665 660
Housewives: 09094 665 661
Asian Black Latino: 09094 665 662
XXX Stories: 09094 665 664

ADULT FANTASIES
NEW
10p
per min
0871 550 1700
GAY: 0871 550 1661

LIVE CHAT
STRICTLY
18+ ADULTS
MOBILES:
0871 210 4434
09081 410 210

BABECLUB
Listen in
SECRET
0871 210 6868
HUNK CLUB
0871 210 7606

OLDER LADIES
OVER 40'S
TALK DIRTY
0909 930 6666

RED HOT STORIES
naughty girls
live 1-2-1
or listen
0871 300 0122
GAY: 0871 300 0311

JUST LISTEN
0870 500 7268
CHAT LIVE
0871 200 8311
FROM ONLY
3p
per min

Join TXT Chat
from only
5p
per text
1 FREE text to
send every day
FREE for women!
text: STAR to: 69900

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TXT LOCAL TO 89999

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view the Callgirls LIVE on Sky Channel
999 - FREE from 8pm for LIVE 1-2-1 Chat!

121 Sexy Chat
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per min
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LIVE SEX CHAT
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boys text: mstar
gays text: gstar
to: 69866
FREE 4 WOMEN!
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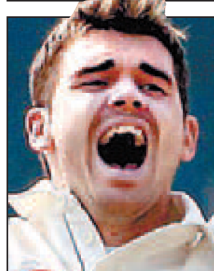
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3 FREE SEX TEXTS
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Live Phone Sex
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FROM YOUR MOBILE

ASHES AGES FLOP AGAIN



ANDERSON: Three wickets

ENGLAND'S Ashes heroes suffered another batting nightmare here yesterday - but were then praised by assistant coach Matthew Maynard.

Michael Vaughan's men stare defeat in the face after crashing to 39-6 against the Pakistan Cricket Board Patron's XI, leaving them with a precarious lead of 84.

And that followed an equally disastrous 60-6 in the first innings of their three-day four opener.

But Maynard ruled out any idea of complacency from a team heralded for their victory over Australia less than two months ago.

Maynard said: "To lose the wickets has been a disappointment. But the guys look

in top nick in the nets and the practice wickets are totally different to the centre wicket we have here.

"That will be totally different to the Test wicket we will have in two weeks' time, so I wouldn't read too much into it."

Muggy

England's own Test back-up bowlers fared well on a surface allowing occasional exaggerated seam movement as well as swing in the muggy air.

James Anderson and off-spinner Shaun Udal returned to the fold with three wickets each and debutant Liam Plunkett did the same as the Board XI went out for 211.

Yasir Arafat (2-1) and Mohammad Irshad (3-22) did the damage second time round on a pitch Maynard conceded should have suited England's batsmen.

He said: "It is pretty much English conditions, but we haven't adapted that well."

Andrew Strauss (6), Vaughan (0), Kevin Pietersen (10) and Geraint Jones (0) went cheaply as England crashed in 14 overs.

ENGLAND 256-9dec (Trescothick 124no, Prior 50; Arafat 4-45 & 39-6 (Irshad 3-22), PATRON'S XI 211 (Udal 3-36, Plunkett 3-41, Anderson 3-50).

Prince to rule for Roos

AUSTRALIA have put their faith in Scott Prince as the man to pick up the torch left by the great Andrew Johns, writes MARTIN RICHARDS.

The Wests Tigers skipper caps a fairy-tale season with his debut after getting the nod over Trent Barrett and Craig Gower for the scrum-half spot against Great Britain at Wigan on Saturday.

Queenslander Prince, who led unfancied Wests to their first NRL title this season, takes over from injured Johns, whose Test reign appears to be over.

Prince, 25, admitted: "It's an honour and a privilege to play for Australia and to get the nod over two more experienced candidates. Now I have to perform."

AUSTRALIA: Minichiello; King, Gasnier, Cooper, Tate; Lockyer (capt), Prince; Price, Buderus, Cionkeva, O'Donnell, Fitzgibbon, S. Kennedy, Subas from Barrett, Ryles, O'Meley, Mason, Hindmarsh.

England's own Test back-up bowlers fared well on a surface allowing occasional exaggerated seam movement as well as swing in the muggy air.

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ENGLAND 256-9dec (Trescothick 124no, Prior 50; Arafat 4-45 & 39-6 (Irshad 3-22), PATRON'S XI 211 (Udal 3-36, Plunkett 3-41, Anderson 3-50).

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

★ **MONKHOSTIN** has been slashed to 5-2 clear favourite from 10-1 by Coral for the Paddy Power Gold Cup after his impressive win at Exeter yesterday.

★ **RACING DEMON** has been promoted to 7-1 clear favourite from 12-1 for the Royal & Sunalliance Chase and to 8-1 from 14-1 for the Arkle after his win at Exeter. Chilling Place is 10-1 from 20-1 for the Arkle after his gallant second.

★ Leading novice hurdler Roman Ark is likely to make his chasing debut at Carlisle on Monday. Malcolm Jefferson's grey rattled off a three-time last winner, including one of the best performances by a novice when thrashing Baby Run and Turpin Green in a Grade Two event at Haydock.

CATTERICK
1.00 (7f): 1, GLENBUCK (J Fanning 5-1); 2, Laphonic (Saleem Golam 9-2); 3, Graze On Too (E Ahern 14-1). Ronah 3-1 fav. 13/1.
1/4l, 11 ran. A Bailey, Targovles.
Tote: £5.90; pl £1.90, £2.00, £4.60, exacta: £25.20, csf: £26.40.
2.30 (7f): 1, ORCHARD SUPREME (R L Moore 8-1); 2, Lady Lochinver (Dean McKeown 14-1); 3, King's Revenge (D Allan 15-8). Violent Velocity 6-4 fav. 6/2l, 11 ran. R Hannon, Marlborough.
Tote: £8.40; pl £2.10, £3.90, £1.50, exacta: £77.70, csf: £100.07.
2.00 (6f): 1, NAMID REPROBATE (S W Kelly 6-1); 2, Hits Only Jude (Dean McKeown 3-1); 3, Squadron Leader (R L Moore 11-1). High Curragh 5-2 fav. Nk, 3/2l, 10 ran. P Cole, Whitcombe.
Tote: £6.80; pl £2.30, £1.50, £3.40, exacta: £22.80, csf: £24.04, tricast: £197.97.
2.40 (1m 4f): 1, GIFTED MUSICIAN (E Ahern 13-2); 2, Desert Storm (A Munro 3-1) fav. 3/2l, 3 ran. Cabooes (R L Moore 7-2), Trew Style 3-1 jt fav. 5/1, 5/1, 15 ran. J Dunlop, Arundel.
Tote: £10.00; pl £2.30, £1.50, £1.60, exacta: £36.40, csf: £23.22.
3.00 (7f): 1, WYATT EARP (F Norton 20-1); 2, Trojan Flight (E Ahern 8-1); 3, Imperialist (D P McDonogh 12-1); 4, Zhitomir (P Makin 8-1). Morse 11-2 3/4l, 1/4l, 14/1, 18 ran. R Fahey, Malton.
Tote: £32.30; pl £7.40, £2.50, £4.00, £2.00, exacta: £430.20, csf: £164.85, tricast: £2,045.73.
3.30 (5f): 1, DIZZY IN THE HEAD (L Enstone 6-1) jt fav.; 2, Mynd Hayler Turner 6-1 jt fav.; 3, Angelflower (A Munro 9-1). 3/2l, 3/2l, 17 ran. I Semple, Carlisle.
Tote: £7.70; pl £2.80, £2.30, £4.70, exacta: £30.70, csf: £33.93.
4.00 (1m 6f): 1, HERNANDO'S BOY (R L Moore 9-1); 2, Grey

4.10 (3m): 1, TOULOUSE-LAUTREC (A P McCoy 10-11 fav); 2, Knight Of Silver (R Greene 50-1); 3, Rosetown (W McCarthy 7-1). 4/1, 9 ran. T George, Slad.
Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £5.20, £1.70, exacta: £33.60, csf: £42.07, tricast: £235.70.
PLACEPOOT: £8.40
JACKPOT: £23,015.60
WORCESTER
1.50 (2m): 1, NOVACELLA (A Thornton 13-8 fav); 2, Very Special One (J P McNamara 12-1); 3, Labelthorpe (J Tizzard 9-2). 2/2l, 6/1, 13 ran. R Alner, Blandford.
Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £2.30, £2.10, exacta: £25.90, csf: £26.12, NR: Paradise Bay.
2.50 (2m 4f): 1, SALTANGO (W Kennedy 5-4 fav); 2, Taking My Cut (R McGrath 18-1); 3, Eight Fifty Five (W Marston 2-1). 10/1, 1/2l, 12 ran. A Hales, Aylesbury.
Tote: £2.10; pl £1.20, £3.70, £3.10, exacta: £25.90, csf: £26.12, NR: Paradise Bay.
2.50 (2m 4f): 1, IDLE TALK (J M Maguire 7-2 fav); 2, Lord Killishara (J Tizzard 12-1); 3, Mel In Blue (M R S Waley-Cohen 9-2). 6/1, 4/1, 14 ran. T George, Slad.
Tote: £5.30; pl £1.40, £4.20, £1.60, exacta: £76.40, csf: £44.29, NR: My Only Bid.
3.20 (2m 4f): 1, PARION WHAT (C Mercer 28-1); 2, Eljahan (S Walsh 66-1); 3, Hard N Sharp (W Kennedy 6-1); 4, Caspian Dusk (R Lucey-Butler 40-1). The Ridecreek 3-1 fav. 5/1, 5/1, 1/4l, 17 ran. S Lyett, Bourton-On-The-Water.
Tote: £30.40; pl £6.00, £13.40, £2.40, £5.50, exacta: £1,203.50, csf: £1,198.92, tricast: £1,903.52.
3.50 (2m 4f): 1, MAJOR EURO (M Foley 11-2); 2, Mon Mome (S Thomas 5-1); 3, Bunkum (W Kennedy 6-1); 4, Kosmos Bieb 11-8 fav. Nk, 20/1, 7 ran. S Gilmore, Banbury.
Tote: £6.30; pl £1.80, £5.80, exacta: £25.60, csf: £30.86.
4.20 (2m): 1, AU COURANT (S Curling 11-10 fav); 2, Busy Henry (L Head 7-1); 3, Different Class (M Alan Berry 7-1). 1/2l, 11/1, 5 ran. N Henderson, Lambourn.
Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £1.90, exacta: £6.00, csf: £8.91.
QUADPOOT: £68.70
PLACEPOOT: £233.70
FLEMINGTON
Melbourne Cup, 04.00 (2m): 1, MAKALIVA (G Jones 17-5 fav); 2, On A Jume (D Gauci 70-1); 3, Xcellent (M Coleman 20-1). 1/4l, 1/2l, 24 ran. L Freedman.
Tote: £2.60; pl £2.00, £1.60, £5.80, exacta: £197.50, tricast: £4,951.70.

SERIOUSLY football Gunners aiming for a knockout

Wenger: Mour just so stupid

From Back Page

But I do not know what that will be yet. I have not said anything malicious about Chelsea, just my honest opinion.

"I would expect others to do the same about Arsenal, if they were asked.

"I do not care what people say, but I will always say what I think. If you give success to stupid people it makes them more stupid sometimes, not more intelligent.

"When you receive personal attacks that are nothing to do with the game, you have to say it is disrespectful.

"I will not accept that lack of respect."

Sickness

Wenger's strong words came after Mourinho taunted his rival in the wake of Chelsea's 4-2 win over Blackburn.

The Arsenal boss had previously suggested the Premiership champions could be vulnerable after drawing with Everton and losing on penalties to Charlton in the Carling Cup.

Mourinho's prickly response was: "I think Wenger is one of those - what do you call it in English - voyeurs.

"He is someone who likes to watch other people. He is always speaking about other families. It is a sickness. Being a voyeur is a sickness."



THUMBS UP: Thierry Henry looks fit and sharp in training yesterday while Arsene Wenger (inset) is deep in thought PICS: LAWRENCE LUSTIG

GROUP B						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
ARSENAL	3	3	0	0	6	2 9
Ajax	3	1	1	1	4	3 4
FC Thun	3	1	0	2	2	4 3
Sparta Prague	3	0	1	2	1	4 1

Remaining fixtures - Tonight: Arsenal v Sparta Prague, FC Thun v Ajax. Nov 22: Ajax v Sparta Prague, FC Thun v Arsenal. Dec 7: Arsenal v Ajax, Sparta Prague v FC Thun.

I WON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER JIBE

ARSENE WENGER has enjoyed his jousting with Sir Alex Ferguson but when it comes to Jose Mourinho it's personal.

And the Chelsea boss has made sure of that.

Fergie and Wenger have always loved the mind games, and employed them to great effect.

But brash Mourinho does not care about reputations and has taken the battles to an extra level by calling Wenger "a sick voyeur" in an attempt to wind him up.

This is nothing new. In his short time in England the Portuguese boss has upset UEFA, the FA, the Premier League, Johan Cruyff, Frank Rijkaard, Mark Hughes,



by **DANNY FULLBROOK**

Liverpool fans and particularly Wenger.

Arsenal boss Wenger protested ahead of tonight's Champions League tie with Sparta Prague that he could not care less about Mourinho's barbed comments.

Irritation

But he blatantly does - and maybe that's because what he says or does seemingly has no effect on the Chelsea machine.

In the midst of having a go back at Mourinho and accusing him of

being disrespectful and insisting he is not obsessed with Chelsea, he still found the clarity of mind to have another well-timed dig when talking about the title race.

He said: "There is a long way to go, especially if people get nervous."

Of course, claiming back-to-back titles is something Wenger has not been able to do.

The fact Chelsea look certain is another irritation to the normally unflappable Wenger.

Chelsea smashed all sorts of records on the way to their first League Championship in 50 years last season.

But Wenger insisted last night: "I am not obsessed with Chelsea. I am at a club that I am happy

with. I do not understand why he has said what he has but I will not be asking for an apology because there is nothing to say. There is no need to clear the air.

"What he has said will not stop me sleeping at night. I have a game to be concerned about."

"I can take criticism about my team but take exception when it becomes personal."

Respect

"I am just getting on with my job and continue saying what I want to say. That will be about football and not a personal attack."

"Our Champions League destiny is much more important. We have a chance of finishing the job against Prague and qualifying. But

I will not accept the lack of respect I have been shown. Frankly I am not interested in Chelsea. I never worry about them."

"I know, we are equipped to win the Champions League, just like 10 or 11 other teams."

"We will be giving it our best shot."

Thierry Henry is set to start against Sparta but Freddie Ljungberg is out. ARSENAL (probable): Lehmann, Lauren, Toure, Campbell, Clichy, Reyes, Fabregas, Gilberto, Pires, Henry, Bergkamp.

TV: Sky Sports Xtra 7.45 (digital viewers choose from eight matches).

GREG RUSEDKI failed in his bid to topple Tim Henman as British No.1 when he crashed 6-2 6-2 to Russia's Nikolay Davydenko in the second round of the Paris Masters.

"There wasn't much happening for me today," said Rusedski. "Whichever option I chose was the wrong one."

Hans up for Panthers

SPEEDWAY by **PETER OAKES**

PETERBOROUGH are closing in on the first big signing of the winter - and he's on their own doorstep.

They are set to snap up Danish star Hans Andersen, who lives on a posh estate close to the East of England Showground and can even see the track from his bedroom window!

Andersen, 25 tomorrow, will decide this morning



whether to rejoin his old club. But the odds are he will agree to end a two-season spell with Elite League rivals Ipswich to return to the Panthers.

The ex-Scandinavian Grand Prix champion vowed never to ride for

Peterborough again after an acrimonious split at the end of 2003.

But a change of ownership - with ex-promoter Mick Horton selling out to his brother Colin in the summer - will make it easier for Andersen to have a change of heart.

Answer

Andersen flew back home to Denmark yesterday and has promised to give his final answer to Peterborough's lucrative offer first thing today

after discussing it with his family.

Meanwhile, Elite League Oxford seem certain to be in new hands by the end of the month.

Owner Steve Purchase has revealed he is in talks with a prospective buyer after the previous leaseholder, Nigel Wagstaff, quit last week.

Purchase said: "Our discussions are at an advanced stage and I am hopeful that a deal can be concluded shortly."

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THROUGH THE VICTOR CHANDLER GROUP

NEW DAILY GAMING COLUMN

It's been our habit from time to time to use a few questions and answers so that readers can assess how their poker game is developing. Try these for size.

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

Question A: During tournament play you find yourself heads up. Your stack is four times more valuable than the big blind who limps in. Your hole cards are the Ace of Spades and the Ace of Clubs. Should you check? Pile in with a large raise? Or make a raise that your opponent might be tempted to call?

Question B: You have King of Spades and King of Diamonds as hole cards on the button. Four players ahead of you limp in and you raise three times the big blind. The flop is Jack of Hearts, Five of Clubs and Ace of Clubs. You're faced with two calls and a raise of six times the big blind. What action do you take? Do you call? Do you re-raise? Do you go all-in? Or fold?

Question C: You're in a \$5-\$10 game where everyone at the table is deep stacked. You're dealt Five of Hearts and Five of Diamonds in a late position and follow a small raise with your call after two other calls have been made. The flop produces Five of Spades, Seven of Hearts, Ten of Clubs. The raiser bets, another player calls and you decide to call. Another Ten shows up at the turn and everyone repeats their previous action. The river delivers a Queen. Everyone checks except the raiser who makes a big bet. All those left in the game have plenty of funds. Do you re-raise? Call? Fold? Or go all-in?

TUTORIAL ANSWERS

Answer A: The strategy is clearly to keep your opponent in the game while realising that pocket rockets are a fabulous hand under any circumstances. You don't want to edge him out of the game until you have an idea of what he's holding and you certainly don't want him to see the flop for free while you're holding pocket dynamite. The answer is you make a raise that's within his ability to call.

Answer B: There's an excellent chance one of your opposing players is holding an Ace. There's even a likelihood his kicker is a Jack or a Five. Either way with an Ace on the board the chance of a pair of bullets is too great for your Kings. It never feels good to fold a high pair but it's the right play when you see that Ace in the community cards.

Answer C: Your hand is good but not invincible by any means.

It's easily possible the raiser made Queen trips at the river following up on a pair of Queens in the hole. You should call. If he re-raises you should bow out with your stack still intact and pray it's not a mad bluff.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

NOBBY'S KNOWS

Crispy car prize for fact fanatics

SNACK on fantastic facts with sexy Sophie as we continue to bring you the world's best trivia in our new column Nobby's Knows.

While Nobby's crisps fill you up a treat, Nobby's Knows will leave you with total trivia satisfaction.

For Star readers have joined our fact frenzy by sending in great trivia and tasty tips - to get automatically in an awesome prize draw for a Honda Civic Type R.

Here we give you the chance to be the king of pub knowledge with fab sporting facts sent in by readers and solve our Number Cruncher question below for another chance to win the car.



HE'S GOT BALLS

Obsessive collector Ted Hoz of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has a collection of 69,384 golf balls. We don't reckon his neighbours are 'green' with envy.

FANCY THAT

The word 'fan' doesn't come from the word 'fanatic'. In fact it comes from the posh 'fancy men' who used to watch bare-knuckle fighting in the 19th century.

RED CARD RECORD

The beautiful game turned into the ugliest during a match between Chile and Uruguay in June 1975 when a nutty 19 players picked up a red card.

TURFED OUT

It's a tough act to follow as Bill Lampton of Scunthorpe found out - he holds the record for the shortest ever reign as a football club boss lasting a miserable three days.

GETTING SHIRTY

Goalies didn't have to wear different coloured shirts from their team-mates until 1913 - after referees complained that they needed to clearly know which player could handle the ball. At first green was the most popular because few teams wore the colour as their first strip.

Keep sending in your facts and trivia for a chance to get straight into the draw for this week's awesome Honda Civic Type R, simply text **TRIVIA** to 88833 or email us - competition@dailystar.co.uk with **NEWS FOR NOBBY'S** as the subject title. You can also enter by following Nobby's link on www.dailysnack.com and watch out for Nobby's Knows every day this week.

THE BIG NUMBER CRUNCHER

Collect a single digit figure by choosing the correct number from our Number Cruncher, every day in the Daily Star. The whole week's questions will be repeated in Friday's column where there will be the chance to send in the correct five digit code to enter our prize draw - with the chance to win a Honda Civic Type R.

THE QUESTION

What is the number of shirt that David Beckham wears when he plays for England?

A. 1 B. 3 C. 7



For more information on Nobby's Crisps visit www.dailysnack.co.uk

Premium rate phone line. Texts should be no longer than 160 characters. Texts cost £1.50 plus your usual operator rate. Winners will be selected from all entries received by midnight 06/11/05. Normal Daily Star rules apply.

NOBBY'S

SERIOUSLY football

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: We feel your

WOOLY'S VERDICT



Roy's rant has to be punished

IT is difficult to see how Roy Keane can play for Manchester United again.

Whatever the reaction by the players tonight in the Champions League against Lille, Keane has distanced himself from a new team trying to prove there isn't a crisis at Old Trafford.

Not for the first time in his career, the captain has gone over the top. This time, on his own team-mates.

Brave

What Keane should have done is march into the training ground on Monday morning and pinned a few of them up against a wall, not vent his disgust inside a TV studio.

It is claimed the players he tore into during a now-banned interview on the club's own MUTV station will no doubt put on a brave face.

No-one will want to stand up to the skipper who has always been manager Sir Alex Ferguson's first lieutenant, on and off the pitch.

John O'Shea said yesterday criticism is part and parcel of playing for United. Is that what he really felt?

Ferguson's way of deflecting the Keane row was to refuse to talk about it and, instead, describe United as the greatest club on the planet.

That is what they would like to be.

That is what they were a few years ago.

They don't look like that now, however.

Fergie was on good form yesterday, far better than his side has shown this season.

But behind the public swagger, he will be thinking about Keane and what to do about him.

He has always supported his captain, through fair and foul play.

Often it has been claimed Ferguson encouraged Keane to have a go at players and supporters alike - perhaps even writing his script.

But this is different. If the manager backs Keane again then he is in danger of splitting the dressing-room.

Indeed, it should have been the manager fiercely criticising the team after Saturday's shocking performance at Middlesbrough, not the captain.

I would love to be a fly on the wall inside the United dressing-room tonight.

Will Fergie still ignore the Keane claims or will he use them to lift a group of players who must be shell-shocked after what has gone on since the weekend?

Passion

Surely he has to use the Keane rant to inspire his side ahead of a game United must win. The Champions League is all they have left.

They can give the perfect answer against Lille with a display of passion and pride that will help prove their captain is yesterday's man.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH

FERGIE:



GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MAN UNITED...	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Benfica	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Villarreal	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Lille	3	0	2	1	0	1	2

Remaining fixtures - Tonight: Benfica v Villarreal, Lille v Man United. Nov 22: Lille v Benfica, Man United v Villarreal. Dec 7: Benfica v Man United, Villarreal v Lille.

PARIS MATCH: Fergie faces the media in Paris yesterday

SPORTWORD

- ACROSS
- Wolves and Scotland midfielder (8)
 - Stephen, Tour de France winner in 1987 (5)
 - See 13 down
 - Beaumont, British Lions captain in 1980 (4)
 - Bruce, former Nottinghamshire and England wicketkeeper (6)
 - Manchester United and England striker (6)
 - ... Khan, boxing silver medalist at the 2004 Olympics (4)
 - ... Rovers, League of Ireland club (5)
 - ... Coast, Kolo Toure's football country (5)
 - Scottish Premier League club (8)
- DOWN
- Henry, trainer whose first Derby winner was Slip Anchor (5)
 - Stephen, golfer whose first US Tour victory was the Western Open in 2004 (4)
 - Philippe, former Newcastle United and Belgium defender (6)
 - ... Prost, Formula One world champion on four occasions (5)
 - Kenny, father and son American motorcyclists (7)
 - Snooker world champion in 1997 (7)
 - Harry, men's 100 metres Commonwealth champion in 1966 (6)
 - and 7 across. Winner of the Oaks in 2004 (5,5)
 - England's 1966 World Cup winning football captain (5)
 - Dicky, famous cricket umpire (4)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. See Page 52 for yesterday's answers.



5 FOR FUN

- Name the runner-up in the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1979, who is back in jail after violating his probation.
- Which football club have expressed an interest in moving to London's 2012 Olympic Stadium, only to be thwarted, after organisers said it was to be used mainly for athletics?
- Which England striker, with 31 caps, ended his career with a brief spell at Burnley, in the 1999-2000 season?
- With which sport would you associate the Melbourne Cup?
- In darts, which is the lowest number unattainable with one dart?

Answers: Page 52

pain, Sir Alex tells United fans

IT HURTS LIKE HELL



THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS: Wayne Rooney and Sir Alex Ferguson put United's worries to one side last night as they train in Paris

SIR ALEX FERGUSON has admitted he is hurting as much as the fans over Manchester United's current crisis.

United face a vital few days, starting with tonight's crucial Champions League clash with Lille and then the visit of Premiership top dogs Chelsea on Sunday.

And Ferguson said: "There is no question that I know exactly how the fans feel. And I hope that they know exactly how we feel."

Faith

United crashed to their heaviest defeat in 19 months on Saturday, a 4-1 humiliation at Middlesbrough.

It leaves them a massive 13 points adrift of unbeaten Chelsea, while they also look vulnerable in Europe. A team minus injured skipper Roy

from **BILL THORNTON** in Paris

Keane, Gary Neville, Gabriel Heinze and Quinton Fortune, plus the suspended Paul Scholes, must regain respect in the Stade de France.

Many of the players were slammed by Keane in an MUTV programme that was pulled on Monday and is unlikely ever to be aired.

Ferguson refused to discuss that but he hinted he had not taken the big stick to the players in whom he must continue to put his faith.

"We have such a lot of experienced players injured and that isn't easy for the young players to handle."

"But young players at this club learn well."

"There is nothing wrong with their ability or temperament. Playing in the Stade de France will

not affect them. What they have to pick up on is the resilience and the substance of United teams of the past.

"What happened on Saturday should help them to understand that better than anything."

"Losing a game 1-0 is one thing. When you get a 4-1 belting, I think it is a bit different."

Yet Ferguson insisted the bad publicity raining on his and the players' heads was "fantastic".

Captain

He claimed: "We know the challenges we face and it helps the young players understand what it means to be at this club. I hope it helps to make them men."

Ferguson hauled off £100,000-a-week centre-back Rio Ferdinand four minutes from time at The

Riverside on Saturday in a move that was widely seen by many observers as public humiliation for the under-performing England star.

But the United boss confirmed last night: "Rio will be playing against Lille."

And he revealed striker Ruud van Nistelrooy will captain the team for the first time.

TEAMS

LILLE: Sylva; Lichsteiner, Schmitz, Tavarildis, Tafforeau; Bodmer, Makoun; Gygyax, Acimovic, Dennis; Moussilou.
UNITED (probable): Van der Sar; O'Shea, Ferdinand, Brown, Silvestre; Ronaldo, Smith, Fletcher, Richardson; Rooney, Van Nistelrooy.
TV: Sky Sports 2, 6pm.

☐ **CRYSTAL PALACE** striker Andy Johnson's return from knee surgery means he will not be back until November 19.

☐ **DOCTORS** have told Graham Coughlan that an Achilles injury he has picked up means he will not play for Sheffield Wednesday for six weeks.

☐ **STOKE** defender Marlon Broomes has had another game added to a three-match ban due to what the Football

SOCCER SHOTS

Association deemed a "frivolous" appeal against his red card at Southampton.

☐ **BOSS** Neil Warnock has assured unsettled midfielder Michael Tonge he still has a big future at Sheffield United.

☐ **HULL** manager Peter Taylor has turned to Nottingham

Forest's David Johnson to solve his striking problems.

☐ **STUART PEARCE** has secured striker Bradley Wright-Phillips, 20, on a four-year deal at Manchester City.

☐ **COVENTRY** have taken Celtic winger Anthony McParland on trial.

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Still best

From Back Page

under-fire United manager said of his critics: "It used to bother me when I first came to the club."

"Now, it doesn't bother me one bit. There's no point in me getting my drawers in a twist about it."

"There is no difference to this 'crisis' than the others in the past 19 years."

Fergie, whose United face Lille in Paris tonight in the Champions League, refused to be drawn on Keane's Monday rant on MUTV in a programme that was pulled. "I have nothing to say about that," said Fergie.

Keane is said to be furious his views were axed.

What you think

☐ **RIO NOT GOOD ENOUGH 4 SUNDAY MORNING TEAM. GINGER SOTON.**

☐ time rio an rest of man u money grabbers got their head out of their bank accounts an started playin, sir matt is in his grave! **clive.**

☐ **LEAVE FERGIE ALONE, HE IS MY HERO & MAN UNITED ARE STILL DA BEST IN DA WORLD. WE HATE SCOUSERS!**

STEVE RUTHERFORD.

☐ mfc 4eva i thought fergie would be blamin the smog for there s*** effort on sat! **suv.**

☐ Man Utd fans keep moaning Chelsea bought title. Thats the whole idea, buy good players, win the title. **Mark Boro fan.**

☐ come home wayne all is agiven we can c its gone rong 4ya great spirit ere not like utd. **JJ EFC.**

☐ thanks fergie but its time to move aside ferdinand oshea fletcher richardson not good enough. **dek mufc.**

☐ how does that song go again? was it glory glory man utd? ha, dont make me laugh 4-1 ha ha try stopping me! **THE LAFFIN SCOUSER.**

☐ how does that song go again? was it glory glory man utd? ha, dont make me laugh 4-1 ha ha try stopping me! **THE LAFFIN SCOUSER.**

☐ how does that song go again? was it glory glory man utd? ha, dont make me laugh 4-1 ha ha try stopping me! **THE LAFFIN SCOUSER.**

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Information Station

UEFA Champions League

Group E

PSV (1)	1	AC Milan (0)	0
Farin 12		Air 35,500	
Schalke 04 (1)	2	Fenerbahce (0)	0
Kurany 32		Air 59,000	
Sand 90			

PSV	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Schalke 04	4	2	1	1	2	3	7
AC Milan	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
Fenerbahce	4	1	1	2	7	8	4

Group F

Olympiacos (1)	1	Lyon (2)	4
Babangida 3		Juninho 41	
Carew 43, 57		Diana 55	
Air 29,555			

Rosenborg (0)	0	Real Madrid (2)	2
Dorsin 26 og		Gull 41	
Air 20,122			

Lyon	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	4	0	0	0	10	2	12
Rosenborg	4	0	1	8	5	9	1
Olympiacos	4	1	0	4	8	4	1

Group G

Liverpool (1)	3	Anderlecht (0)	0
Morientes 34		Cisse 89	
Real Betis (1)	1	Chelsea (0)	0
Dani 28		Air 42,607	

Liverpool	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	4	3	1	0	5	1	10
Real Betis	4	2	1	1	5	1	7
Anderlecht	4	0	0	4	0	6	0

Group H

Artem Bratislava (1)	2	Rangers (2)	2
Borisy 8		Thompson 44	
Kozak 59		Air 6,527	

Inter Milan (0)	2	FC Porto (1)	1
Cruz 75 pen, 82		Hugo Almeida 16	
Air 37			

Coca-Cola Championship

Brighton (1)	1	Wolves (0)	1
Frutos 40		Cameron 82	
Air 6,642			

Burnley (0)	2	Millwall (1)	1
Dyer 76		Wright 1	
Elliott 80		Air 10,698	

Crewe (1)	1	Leeds (0)	0
Sutcliffe 8 og		Air 7,220	
Nonwich (0)	1	Cardiff (0)	0
Alexander 77 og		Air 23,838	

Plymouth (1)	A	Leicester (0)	A
Chadwick 28			
Abandoned due to waterlogged pitch.			

Preston (0)	3	Hull (0)	0
Johnson 59			
Jones 73		Air 13,536	

Reading (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0
McNamee 76			
Whelan 36 og		Air 16,188	

Sheff Utd (1)	4	Luton (0)	0
Gajek 34, 88			
Morgan 50		Air 22,554	

Watford (1)	3	QPR (0)	1
Spring 39			
McNamee 70		Air 16,476	

NATIONWIDE SOUTH: Dorchester

2 Lewes 2.

UNIONBAND PREMIER: AFC Telford 3

Runcom 1, Burscough 3, Aiston Utd 0.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER:

Banbury 4 Chippenhams 2.

Championship Table

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

Sheff Utd	17	13	2	2	35	13	41
Reading	17	11	5	1	28	9	38
Watford	17	8	5	4	29	20	29
Luton	17	8	4	5	25	22	28
Leeds	16	7	5	4	19	15	26
Crystal Palace	15	7	3	5	24	15	24
Southampton	16	5	9	2	19	13	24
QPR	17	6	6	5	19	21	24
Cardiff	16	6	5	5	25	19	23
Wolves	17	5	7	5	21	18	22
Burnley	17	6	7	4	23	21	22
Preston	17	4	9	4	19	18	21
Leicester	16	4	7	5	16	18	21
Norwich	17	5	4	8	17	22	19
Ipswich	16	5	4	7	15	23	19
Stoke	16	6	1	9	15	24	19
Hull	17	4	7	13	17	18	18
Derby	16	3	8	5	21	23	17
Brighton	17	2	10	5	17	22	16
Coventry	16	3	7	6	20	26	16
Sheff Wed	16	3	6	13	19	16	16
Plymouth	16	3	7	6	12	19	16
Crewe	17	3	7	7	18	31	16
Millwall	17	2	6	9	12	27	12

Coca-Cola League One

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
---	---	---	---	---	---	-----

Hartlepool (1)	3	Gillingham (0)	1
Day 15, Sweeney 50		Collins 90	
Bullock 86		Air 4,522	

Southend	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	16	10	3	3	37	20	33
Huddersfield	16	9	4	3	30	22	31
Brentford	16	7	5	4	19	14	26
Barnsley	16	7	4	5	21	16	25
Scunthorpe	16	7	4	5	28	24	25
Chesterfield	16	8	1	7	27	27	25
Port Vale	16	7	3	5	19	18	24
Bradford	16	6	5	5	20	17	23
Nottm Forest	16	7	2	7	20	19	23
Bournemouth	16	6	5	5	17	16	23
Hartlepool	16	6	5	5	20	21	23
Yeovil	16	6	4	6	20	23	22
Colchester	16	5	6	5	17	18	21
Oldham	16	6	3	7	20	27	21
Walsall	16	5	6	5	23	26	20
Rotherham	16	4	6	6	19	19	18
Doncaster	16	5	3	8	17	19	18
Tranmere	16	4	5	7	16	17	17
Gillingham	16	4	5	7	13	22	17
Blackpool	16	3	7	6	18	25	16
Bristol City	16	4	4	8	19	31	16
M K Dons	16	2	9	5	16	20	15
Swindon	16	2	4	10	16	25	10

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL: Pittsburgh 20 Baltimore 19

TENNIS

ATP MASTERS SERIES (Paris) 2nd

rd: (3) N Davydenko (Rus) bt G

Rusedski (GB) 6-2 6-2.

TODAY'S DIARY

FOOTBALL

(Kick-off 7.45pm unless stated)

UEFA Champions Lge

Group A

Club Brugge v Rapid Vienna

Juventus v Bayern Munich

Group B

Arsenal v Sparta Prague

FC Thun v Ajax

Group C

Barcelona v Panathinaikos

Werder Bremen v Udinese

Group D

Benfica v Villarreal

Lille v Man Utd

Coca-Cola Championship

Coventry v Stoke

Derby v Ipswich

Southampton v Crystal Palace

RUGBY UNION

Principality Building Society

Premiership (7pm): Cardiff v Newport.

TENNIS

BNP Paribas Masters (Paris).

YESTERDAY'S SPORTWORD

ACROSS: 1 Niall, 4 Ayala, 7 IFK, 8

Gullis, 9 Halle, 10 Lane, 11 Market, 14

Braves, 15 Anil, 18 Noble, 20 Owens,

21 Rio, 22 Yobes, 23 Moyes. DOWN: 1

Nigel, 2 Atlanta, 3 Lisa, 4 Akhtar, 5

Ali, 6 Anett, 12 Kennedy, 13 Peters,

14 Benny, 16 Lusia, 17 Poom, 19 Bob.

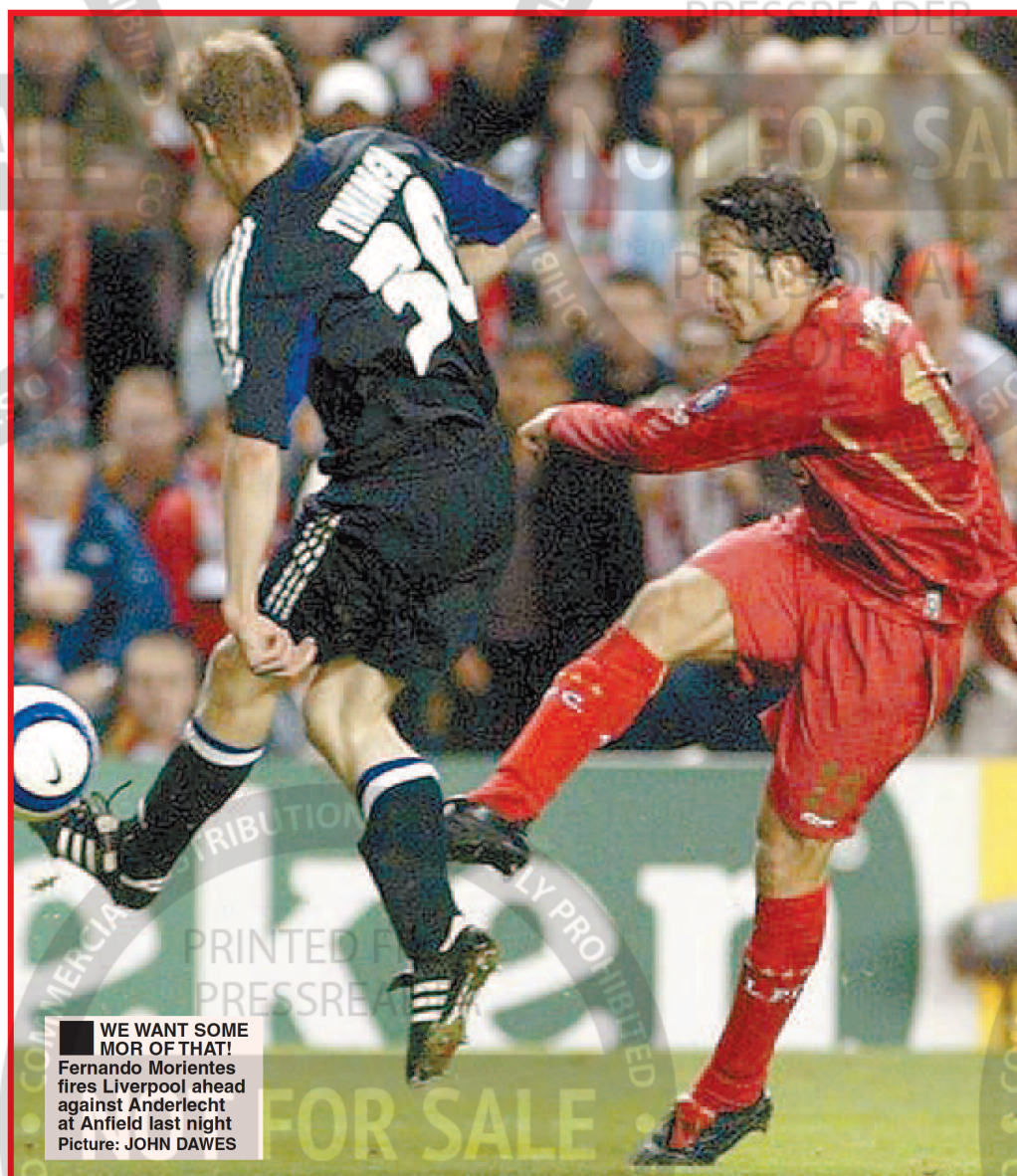
5 FOR FUN

1 Roscoe Tanner, 2 Spurs, 3 Ian

Wright, 4 Horse racing, 5 23.

SERIOUSLY football

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Anfield joy



WE WANT SOME MOR OF THAT! Fernando Morientes fires Liverpool ahead against Anderlecht at Anfield last night
Picture: JOHN DAWES

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as Spanish ace comes good for Rafa

MOR THE MERRIER

FERNANDO Morientes repaid his manager's faith in him by ensuring Anfield enjoyed another successful European night.

The Spanish hitman was given a vote of confidence before the game from boss Rafa Benitez.

And he quickly responded by grabbing the 61st European goal of his career to send Anderlecht crashing to another Champions League defeat.

Morientes has, so far, failed to deliver the goods in the Premiership, and his 34th-minute strike last night was only his third for Liverpool this season – all of them coming in Europe.

Domestic

But Benitez has consistently backed him, claiming that he will come good in the end. Maybe that touch of perseverance will now pay off in domestic competition.

The ex-Real Madrid man's strike will have done his confidence the power of good, after showing a touch of class and coolness.

Steven Gerrard chipped the ball to him on the right-hand side of the penalty area and he calmly chested it down before lashing in a right-foot shot that gave goalkeeper Silvio Proto no chance.

Ironically, that goal came just a minute after Proto had blocked a shot off the knees of the high-jumping Morientes, during a period of early Liverpool pressure. But Morientes had to leave the pitch after 52 minutes, clearly struggling with a leg problem.

Tiny

The Reds made their dominance count in the 61st minute, however, through a sensational 20-yard header from Luis Garcia.

The tiny Spaniard somehow rose high enough to connect with a Steve Finnan cross, but few people would have dreamt that he would score from such a range!

He was in what looked to be a hopeless situation but the ball flew high and into the back of the net. The Belgium outfit's cause wasn't helped in the 75th minute



KOP HERO: Luis Garcia punches the air after heading in the second goal

by KEVIN FRANCIS
Liverpool 3
Anderlecht 0

when Nenad Jestrovic was red-carded for foul and abusive language, but the game had already been put off of their reach.

And Liverpool capped another impressive European display a minute from time when substitute Djibril Cisse raced clear and calmly slotted home goal number three.

It was a match in which captain Gerrard once again turned on the style, with the kind of classy display that has become his trademark as he popped up everywhere

in a free-roaming midfield role. Some of his crossfield passes were a joy to watch as the Liverpool ace gave a typically all-action, sleeves-rolled-up, performance.

Cracking

He almost set-up giant striker Peter Crouch for a goal after 22 minutes, following a cracking right-wing run that saw him evade all Anderlecht attention.

He then sent over a low cross which Crouch, sliding towards

the goal, made contact with but pushed wide of the post.

Anderlecht did give an early indication of the kind of threat they can pose when Christian Wilhelmsson nearly caught out Sami Hyypia.

However, it was soon business as usual for the reigning European Champions.

TEAMS

LIVERPOOL: Reina, Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Risse, Gerrard, Alonso, Sissoko, Luis Garcia, Morientes, Crouch. Subs: Dudek, Kewell, Cisse, Hamann, Josemi, Warnock, Zenden.
ANDERLECHT: Proto, Zewlakow, Juhász, Tiainen, Wilhelmsson, Vanderhaeghe, Daman, Goor, Akin, Zetterberg, Mpenza. Subs: Zitka, Deschacht, Jestrovic, Basaggio, Pujol, Hasi, Traore.
 Referee: K. Molton Nielsen (Denmark).

Cam cracks it in late escape : Lions lose plot on Ell of a night : Cock-up Kelly does it again

■ Brighton 1 Wolves 1

THE spoils were shared at the Withdean last night with Colin Cameron forcing a late equaliser for injury-hit Wolves.

Brighton went in front five minutes before the interval when Frenchman Alexandre Frutos scored with a low shot to give fans hope of a first home win in two months.

But Wolves salvaged a point eight minutes from time when substitute Cameron fired home after Ioan Ganea saw a shot hit the bar.

■ Burnley 2 Millwall 1

BURNLEY sealed victory in a bad-tempered match in which they had James O'Connor sent off and Millwall got three red cards.

Millwall's Jermaine Wright scored after a minute but his side lost Ben May after a half-time tunnel row with Frank Sinclair.

Jody Morris and O'Connor were then dismissed, as Nathan Dyer and Wade Elliot made it 2-1 to the Clarets. Then Marvin Elliott saw red after the whistle.

■ Crewe 1 Leeds 0

GARY KELLY'S own-goal jinx struck again to put a spanner in Leeds' bid to close in on the automatic promotion places.

The defender beat his own keeper Neil Sullivan twice last season and he was at it again to set up Crewe for only their third win in 16 league games this season.

The right-back tried to clear Michael Higdon's cross but sent his eighth-minute header looping over Sullivan and into the net.

It's Whelan of misfortune...

■ Reading 2 Sheffield Wednesday 0

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY skipper Glen Whelan suffered an identity crisis as Reading's promotion push continued to gather steam.

Whelan played for most of the night in a shirt without a number after it got ripped off in an early challenge. But that didn't allow him to escape being credited with the own goal that helped keep the second-placed Royals well clear of the chasing Championship pack.

His miscued challenge wrongfooted his own keeper David Lucas after he had attempted to prevent Reading's top scorer Dave Kitson from steering in Kevin Doyle's pull-back seven minutes before half-time.

Kitson hit the second low into the corner of the net in the 64th minute after he had been put clear by a brilliant solo run and pass by Glen Little.

It was Kitson's eighth goal of the season and his fourth in four games.

■ Plymouth 1 Leicester 0 (abandoned at half-time)

POOR Nick Chadwick scored on his recall to Plymouth's starting line-up – but saw the goal wiped out by a torrential downpour!

The Home Park clash was abandoned at half-time by Northants ref Andy Woolmer, which means the Foxes face another 500-mile round-trip to Devon.

Striker Chadwick had struck in the 29th minute but in the end it proved meaningless.

■ Preston 3 Hull 0

JEMAL Johnson helped end a miserable run of nine home games without a win for Preston.

A long clearance on 59 minutes picked out Johnson – who is on loan from Blackburn – and he slipped the ball past defender Mark Joseph and fired home.

David Jones and Paul McKenna then sealed the points for Preston with superb long-range efforts.

■ Norwich 1 Cardiff 0

NORWICH finally got the break they craved last night as Cardiff goalkeeper Neil Alexander scored a freak own-goal to gift the Canaries victory.

Without a win in five matches, Norwich took advantage of Alexander's misfortune 14 minutes from time.

Jim Brennan broke forward and crossed for on-loan Calum Davenport, whose header struck a Cardiff defender, bounced off the back of Alexander's head and ended up in the visitors' goal.

Norwich had gone out knowing they needed a win to help save under-fire manager Nigel Worthington's job – but for long periods it looked like another hard-luck story until Alexander's unwitting intervention.

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2/1 Lille 11/5 Draw Man Utd 11/10

Champions League, tonight, Stade de France, kick-off 7.45pm, live on Sky

correct score		first goalscorer	
Lille	Score	Man Utd	4/1
8/1	0-0	5/1	W. Rooney
12/1	1-0	12/1	C. Ronaldo
5/1	1-1	5/1	J.S. Park
12/1	2-0	8/1	A. Smith
10/1	2-1	3/1	M. Silvestre
14/1	2-2	14/1	J. O'Shea
40/1	3-0	18/1	R. Ferdinand
28/1	3-1	16/1	

Others available on request

1/4 Arsenal 7/2 Draw Sparta Prague 9/1

Champions League, tonight, kick-off 7.45pm, live on Sky

correct score		first goalscorer	
Arsenal	Score	Sparta Prague	7/2
8/1	0-0	5/1	T. Henry
9/1	1-0	4/1	R. Van Persie
13/2	1-1	9/2	C. Rieks
5/1	2-0	30/1	J.A. Reyes
7/1	2-1	5/2	D. Bergkamp
25/1	2-2	11/2	F. Ljungberg
7/1	3-0	14/1	C. Fabregas
10/1	3-1	25/1	S. Campbell

Others available on request

Tonight's other matches available on request. All prices subject to fluctuation.

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Sad Hatters driven out by two Jags

PHIL JAGIELKA'S double helped keep Neil Warnock's Sheffield United at the top of the Championship table.

The Blades bounced back in style from Saturday's goalless draw against Cardiff with four goals against promotion rivals Luton.

Shock challengers Luton, last season's League One winners, were firmly put to the sword.

Chris Morgan was also on the scoresheet for the Blades with his first of the season five minutes into the second half, while on-loan Portsmouth striker Vincent Pericard grabbed his second this term after 71 minutes.

Smashed

United's crucial breakthrough came after 34 minutes when midfielder Jagielka claimed his third goal of the season.

Alan Quinn's tricky free-kick had Luton keeper Marlon Beresford stretching to punch out as far as Paul Ifill, who smashed a volley into a crowd of players.

Chris Morgan's scuffed shot trickled to Jagielka, who stabbed in from six yards.

Luton hunted for a quick reply and Carlos Edwards

Sheff Utd 4 Luton 0

tore down the right and cut back a dangerous low cross that forced Jagielka into a desperate clearance.

And just before half-time Blades' keeper Paddy Kenny turned away Warren Feeney's shot.

But five minutes into the second half, Morgan headed United into the comfort zone after Quinn swung in another testing free kick.

Then Derek Geary curled in a low ball which sub Pericard, sliding in, managed to guide past Hatters keeper Beresford.

Jagielka added his second, and United's fourth, two minutes from time.

IT'S SPRING TIME

Watford 3 QPR 1

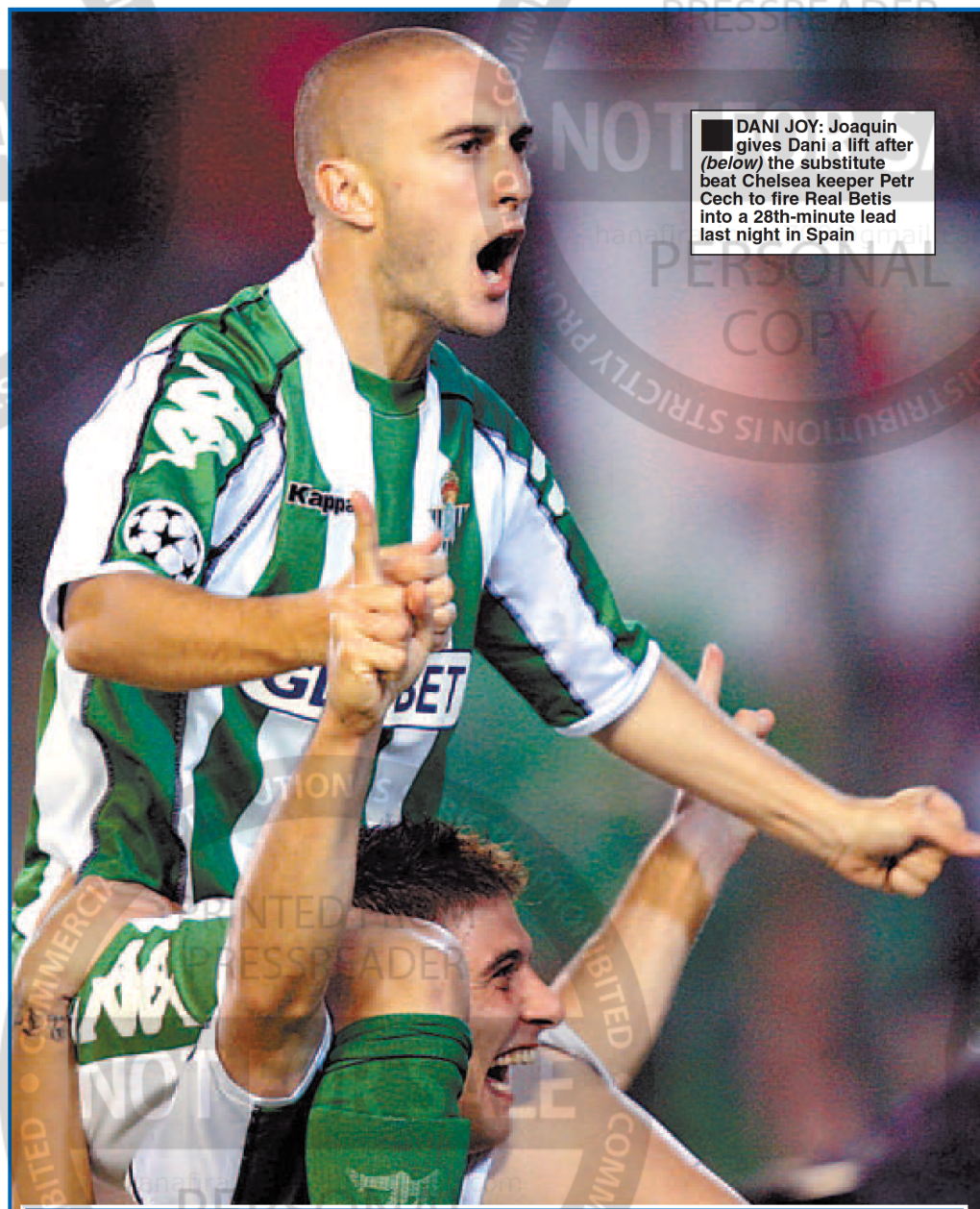
MATTHEW SPRING ended Rangers' run of five unbeaten away games last night. He headed Watford ahead in the 39th minute from close range after Ashley Young's ball into the box ricocheted off Dan Shittu.

Spring then turned provider for the second goal, laying off a smart ball in the 70th minute for Anthony McNamee to fire under keeper Simon Royce.

Young's free-kick five minutes later evaded everyone for Watford's third, before Shittu's last-minute effort for a well-beaten Rangers.

SERIOUSLY football

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Chelsea's



DANI JOY: Joaquin gives Dani a lift after (below) the substitute beat Chelsea keeper Petr Cech to fire Real Betis into a 28th-minute lead last night in Spain



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2/1 Lille 9/4 Man Utd 5/4
Kick Off 19.45, Sky Sports 2

HALF TIME / FULL TIME	CORRECT SCORE
Lille/Lille	4/1 Draw 2-2 14/1
Lille/Draw	14/1 Man Utd 2-0 7/1
Draw/Draw	7/2 Man Utd 3-1 20/1
Man Utd/Man Utd	13/5 Lille 1-0 13/2

Others available on request.

SCORECAST

1st Scorer	Correct Score	Current Price
W. Rooney	Man Utd 2-1	35/1
R. Van Nistelrooy	Man Utd 3-0	66/1

Others available on request.

ARSENAL V SPARTA PRAGUE

1/4 Arsenal 9/2 Sparta Prague 9/1
Kick Off 19.45, Sky Sports Xtra

HALF TIME / FULL TIME	CORRECT SCORE
Arsenal/Arsenal	4/7 Arsenal 1-0 11/2
Draw/Arsenal	7/2 Arsenal 2-0 9/1
S. Prague/Arsenal	28/1 Draw 2-2 28/1
Arsenal/S. Prague	50/1 S. Prague 1-0 12/1

Others available on request.

SCORECAST

1st Scorer	Correct Score	Current Price
T. Henry	Arsenal 2-1	25/1
F. Ljungberg	Arsenal 2-1	45/1

Others available on request.

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proud record wrecked as Betis close the gap



JOSE'S DAN 'N BUSTED

CHELSEA suffered a Real blip here last night as Dani's first-half strike sent them to their first 90-minute defeat of the season.

The Real Betis striker came off the bench to slot in the 28th-minute goal which ended a run of 16 matches unbeaten dating back to the Community Shield win over Arsenal in August.

In fact, it was their first defeat for six months — since the Champions League semi-final defeat by Liverpool at Anfield in May — although a week ago they lost a Carling Cup penalty shoot-out to Charlton.

More important last night, while Liverpool were going top of Group G by beating Anderlecht 3-0 at home, Betis moved within a point of second-placed Chelsea.

The defeat dashed Chelsea's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League knockout last 16 — a win in Seville would have secured their place.

Posts

But they have another chance in three weeks when they go to Anderlecht and Betis visit Anfield.

It would have been even worse for Chelsea if Dani had cashed in on another chance on the stroke of half-time after Edu had fired in a swerving effort which Petr Cech could only parry.

Chelsea must have thought they had earned a draw in the 71st minute when a superb Frank Lampard pass from one side of the area to the other found Shaun Wright-Phillips, who pulled the ball back to Michael Essien.

But Essien not only hit one post but both of them before the ball squirted back to keeper Pedro Contreras.

He was out of luck again in the 78th minute when he fired into the net for what he thought was the equaliser as well as his first strike for the Blues. But the goal was ruled out for an infringement.

Just before Essien had spelled double trouble, Contreras and Didier Drogba were involved in a pushing and shoving spat which earned the Chelsea substitute a booking.

The Spaniards came into the

TEAMS

REAL BETIS: Contreras, Varela, Juanito, Nano, Melli, Joaquin, Rivera, Arzu, Edu, Capi, Oliveira. Subs: Doblas, Dani, Fernando, Xisco, Castellini, Juanlu, Israel.
CHELSEA: Cech, Paulo Ferreira, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, Gallas, Essien, Makelele, Lampard, J Cole, Gudjohnsen, Robben. Subs: Cudicini, Duff, Geremi, Drogba, Bridge, Wright-Phillips, Huth.
REFEREE: A Hamer (Luxembourg).



SPANISH SIGHS: Jose Mourinho and his staff feel the frustration on the Chelsea bench

by SCOTT COLEMAN
Real Betis 1
Chelsea 0

game at a low ebb. Not that their magnificent fans massed inside the Manuel Ruiz de Lopera Stadium showed it.

Since crashing 4-0 at the Bridge, they have lost three straight games in La Liga to sit fourth from bottom in the table.

Yet as they had done two weeks previously, they began with the bit between their teeth.

With the ball at his feet, Joaquin — a player tracked by Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho last season — is a real threat. And he

was instrumental in the early move which saw Edu get in behind Paulo Ferreira but the defender recovered.

Ferreira was back in the side for Asier Del Horno, the versatile William Gallas switched to left-back.

Drilled

Arjen Robben was preferred to the fit-again Damien Duff while Eidur Gudjohnsen was given a surprise start up front.

It was a tight opening, Mourinho's men sticking rigidly to their shape and looking to spring forward.

John Terry gave Robben the chance to run at Juanito with a superb ball out of defence but the Betis skipper stood firm and made a fine tackle. Neither side

backed down from the physical battle.

And Betis were dealt two cruel blows in as many minutes midway through the first half.

First Nano pulled up and had to go off then Ricardo Oliveira was halted by a firm but fair challenge from Ricardo Carvalho. The medical cart was forced to whizz on again.

Yet Oliveira's replacement, Dani, would make an immediate impact. Betis threatened when cutting in from wide areas and it was from one such surge that they went ahead.

Capi moved in from the left and drilled over a low centre. Then in a moment of magic Edu froze the Blues defence with a dummy and Dani was in to finish from close range.

Just before the goal, Cole had talked his way into the referee's notebook.

Now, Chelsea needed more positive action and the England midfielder almost provided it.

Gudjohnsen released him with a reverse pass — the flag correct-

ly stayed down — and only a smart block from Contreras thwarted him.

The keeper saved again from Robben before Gudjohnsen blew a golden chance. Put clean through by Terry, he blazed high over the bar.

But it could have been worse for Chelsea at half-time. Cech could only block Edu's swerving shot and Dani swooped on the rebound. To Chelsea's relief, his left-footed effort squirmed wide.

Nose

Chelsea were clearly intent on rescuing the game when Mourinho opted to replace Cole with Wright-Phillips and Gudjohnsen with Drogba at half-time.

In the 49th minute Robben was booked for a foul on Fernando Varela who was also cautioned by referee Alain Hamer for his part in the clash.

Robben had blood streaming from a cut on his nose and he treatment and changed his shirt before returning to the action.

Vassell fired up by Cole

by KEVIN FRANCIS

A SPOT of friendly rivalry is the main driving force behind the 10-goal partnership of Manchester City's striking partnership of Darius Vassell and Andy Cole.

The pair were in stunning form as City recorded their sixth win in 11 Premier League games with the 3-1 defeat of Aston Villa, which hoisted them into fourth place in the table on Monday.

And it was particularly sweet for Vassell against the club he left to join Stuart Pearce's City outfit for £2m in the summer.

He grabbed two goals with Cole getting the other and said of their blossoming partnership: "Andy is single-minded."

"While he hasn't said anything, I know deep down he will want to score more goals than me."

Dip

"I'm the same and he knows that. There is a little battle going on between us but that can only be beneficial to the club."

The two have five goals each but Vassell has seen the partnership broken up five times when injuries have forced Cole to watch from the sidelines.

And that has been a problem for City, with Vassell saying: "Whenever Andy is out of the team, we seem to go through a little dip. We are a better team with Andy in it."

"His experience and goals record speaks for itself and I need to be playing alongside someone like him."

"I'm still trying to learn. I don't mind doing his running as long as I get a goal at the end of it!"

Robbo's battling the drop

BRYAN ROBSON was last night forced to admit that West Brom face another winter-long battle against relegation.

Defeat against Newcastle last Sunday has left Albion hovering above the relegation zone, with just two Premiership wins all season.

And just months after dreaming about consolidating the club's Premiership status, the former England skipper has handed his fans a harsh dose of reality.

Realistic

"We are in a relegation fight," said Robson. "It's going to be the same as last season."

"So everyone might as well get themselves used to that because that's how it's going to be. However, our supporters are realistic."

"We've got good honest lads here but I want them to do better and be in mid-table or in the top half of the league."

"I am not getting that from them at the moment and, for me, that is disappointing."

■ from BILL THORNTON in Paris

DEFIANT Sir Alex Ferguson declared last night that Manchester United is the biggest club of all time. Ferguson hit back at his critics when he claimed: "We are the biggest club ever. On the planet. In the universe. There is no doubt about that."

His claims came in the wake of the Roy Keane controversy after the injured United skipper panned his team-mates.

Chelsea, who are running away with the Premiership title, and European giants like Real Madrid, AC Milan and Barcelona would undoubtedly disagree with Fergie.



HOT RED:
Roy Keane
under siege from
photographers
yesterday

FURIOUS Arsene Wenger

FURIOUS Arsene Wenger last night lashed out at Jose Mourinho – labelling him “stupid” and “disrespectful”.

The Arsenal boss was disgusted by Mourinho's personal attack, which included him calling the Frenchman "a sick voyeur".

And he is considering taking legal action over the Chelsea manager's outburst.

The pair have been at each other's throats ever

■ by DANNY FULLBROOK

since the Ashley Cole tapping-up affair earlier in the year.

But Wenger feels that, while he has been talking about football, Mourinho has over-stepped the mark by getting personal.

The Gunners chief said: "I find the comments out of order, disconnected with reality and disrespectful – and I will see if I will take some action."

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**DAILY
STAR**
**SERIOUSLY
football**

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SEE PAGES 54-55

TARGET MEN: Fernando Morientes celebrates after firing Liverpool ahead and Dani salutes Real Betis fans after scoring against Chelsea

But Liverpool race clear with Kop blitz

CHELSEA crashed to a shock defeat in Spain last night.

Jose Mourinho's side lost their first match since they were beaten at Anfield in the semi-final of last season's Champions League at Anfield.

Dani scored the Real Betis winner before the break in Seville as the Premiership outfit lost another cup tie after last week's Carling Cup KO by Charlton. Michael Essien was desperate-

by KEVIN FRANCIS

ly unlucky not to equalise when his shot hit BOTH posts before rolling to safety.

Liverpool had no such worries in the other Group G clash after Fernando Morientes hammered home only his third of the season in the 34th minute.

Luis Garcia and Djibril Cisse added further goals in the second half after Anderlecht had Nenad Jestrovic sent off for swearing.

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